

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

O.H. 66

ANNE CARPENTER & FAY BOWIE

Interviewed by
Patricia Young
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INTERVIEWEES: ANNE CARPENTER & FAYE BOWIE

INTERVIEWER: Patricia Young

SUBJECT:

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TRANSCRIBER: Linda A. Jantzen

PY: This is an interview with Faye Bowie and Anne Carpenter for the Historical Society of Palm Desert Oral History Project by Patricia Young on June 23, 1980, Monday, at seven o'clock in the evening at Anne Carpenter's home on San Jose in Palm Desert.

Okay, let's start this evening with just talking how you got into coming here in the first place.

AC: That's right.

PY:

AC: All right. I think it would be or it's kind of interesting to know that we had spent the winter, it was 1943, at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. And with my husband Harold. And they released him and said, the late Dr. said, I think it would be a good idea for you to go someplace where you wouldn't get a cold.

He had nothing pulmonary that was wrong with him, but he did have a bad sort of thing that had required a lot of hospitalization. So he thought where we would go and it was wartime. It was during the war. So we went from Rochester, Minnesota, back to Olympia, Washington, and then took our car and our cocker spaniel and started down to find some sunshine because Washington is very rainy in the wintertime. And so I recall we had a series, oh, all the things you do when you come. Coming down we spent a couple of days at a nice little town of Pixley, and got acquainted with a lady there because Harold wasn't feeling very well. And she said to us, "Why don't you stop at Banning, California? My husband works on the canal there." And he was an engineer. He was away at war, by the way. And so she said, "I always liked Banning and Beaumont, and that's a good sunny place and a very healthful place." So it was a Sunday evening and we got to Banning. And we stayed at a motel and in the early morning we thought, well, we'll go down to Palm Springs. And we went down to Palm Springs and came on down through the valley as far as Rancho Mirage. And we even saw the Grant Morgan House that day. The place was full of army wives because there were boys who

were with the Patton Training Center. And Harold, at four o'clock in the afternoon, took his shirt off and he said, "This is where I want to be." Because it was still warm. It was in January or February. And so we went to Cathedral City and all the motels, well, there were about two of them, but they were full of army wives who were living there or whatever. And I said to the lady at one of the little tiny motels, "We probably better drive back to Banning." "Oh," she said, "you can't do that. Let's go over and see Mrs. Jones." Mrs. Jones lived up on, just across the Highway 111, and we went there and Janey, the cocker, got out of the car and ran up on the porch with me. And Mrs. Jones came and with her was a cocker spaniel. And she let us in. She said, "I am expecting somebody." There was a gambler who comes down from Los Angeles to go to the 102 Club. That was a famous gambling club in Cathedral City. But she said, "He hasn't called, but the room is all ready, and why don't you come in." And by that time Janey was on top of her black and white satin down top in the middle of the bed with her dog. And so we stayed all overnight, and the next morning we found a little apartment and so we stayed there. That was how we

happened to come. And then Harold said, "You know, I think we'll build, we'll buy a lot." Well, we didn't. We looked around because everything was sort of at a standstill during the war, although Palm Dunes had been started by the Mallen Investment Company. And so we spent the rest of that winter just exploring around and enjoying the desert. And enjoying the people, too. And how did you come, Faye?

FB: Well, my husband worked in Indio after working in all around, he worked in Indio for a big construction concern. I don't know what the name of it was, but he was one of the few men that could walk three, and four and five stories up and not get dizzy so they put him on the towers for the plants that they were planning down there for the rubber. And he would come home every weekend and he would tell me about Palm Springs. And he said they raised dates down there. And I said, well, that's the only thing they have. So he didn't bring me any and I bought them up there for two and two and a half a pound. Loved them. Well, anyway, one night he came over to the School in Baldwin Park with all these in kindergarten.

And I was working with the PTA putting on the dinners to help the kids and he said, "We have gas tickets; give them to them." My tin lizzy to go down and look at the desert. And I said, I don't want to go. And he said, well, we've got these tickets so in the morning we'll go. I said, we won't go. And so we had a house there in Baldwin Park and school. So I got to thinking about it. If this guy was dumb enough to give me an A ticket, I was smart enough to use it and we

AC: Yes.

FB: And we came down and I didn't know that he had made the appointment ahead without my knowing it. And we drove past the and I remember coming down.

There was nothing in between and the R. J. Cathedral

AC: Yes, the stone arch.

FB: Yes.

AC: That was over the little highway.

FB: And Rancho Mirage, so we came on through and made two turns into that garden down there at the corner of 111 and Cook. Looked behind to see the two-story house. It belonged to . . .

PY: Thompson.

FB: Thompson.

PY: When was this?

FB: 1943. So we drove and those date trees were so low that you could almost touch the fronds. Bert Cavanagh had owned it and sold it to I think he bought it about a year before. That would be in 1940, late 1941 or 1942, somewhere in there.

Yes. And they couldn't get any men down here to pollenate the grapes. So they figured if they could hire him and bring him down here, why then they could have some men around, so I loved it. The minute I drove in there to me, but I would tell him. So we went on up to the house and Mr. Wilson was there. And my husband asked for Ken. Well, Ken had already gone back to Los Angeles because they were only coming down for the weekend. His wife and children hadn't even come down here, and he was going back. And Glen would come down once a week to check on everything. So we went in the house and sat down, and I listened to them. And Glen said, well, do you want to come? And I didn't answer and we were in Azusa, we lived on a ranch. And they were so tight there, they wouldn't even let us water the lawn. The most beautiful lawns,

about a half acre of lawn. And I thought, well, if I can water it, I won't have to . . . I'll come down, see. So I said, well, there's just one thing, if I can use all the water I want, and Glen said, well, you can go out there and turn the faucet on and never turn it off. Here you use all the water you want. But I didn't realize at that time we had our own well there. So

was on the deck and those trees, they were so gorgeous, you wouldn't believe it in June. Warm sun, well, anyway I said, when do we move, just like that. And my husband said, well, I'll come down now. And I said, well, I won't come until school is out. So I stayed up there and we called.

And he came on down and lived in Glen's house and worked until he could get the little house that was on the top, what's now the Thompson Ranch, up at the back there.

It was no screens, just a hole in the wall, and you could see the sky through the boards on the top. No tar paper on top. We moved into that . . .

AC: No cooling.

FB: No cooling.

PY: What rooms were in at that point?

FB: Pardon?

PY: Were there any rooms?

FB: There was a kitchen, living room and two bedrooms,
believe it or not.

AC: Oh.

FB: They were little tiny. And there was another house
right next door just about six feet away from us. It
was originally for Mexican help
and that belonged to Bert's brother. I never met him.
But anyway . . .

PY: Adobe?

FB: Pardon?

PY: Did you move into adobe?

FB: This was a frame house, just boards. And it had a
concrete floor with nothing on it, just plain concrete
color. And they put in a little electric stove and
that's all there was to it. We moved down a few things.
We planned to build onto the house, and of course the
war had come into there and just got everything. So we
took the furniture we had in storage planning for the
house when we built on it down here, and we sold the
house up there because they advised us to because it
was too far away. And we just moved in there with just
the bare necessities, you know, and there was no problem.

I mean we all just loved it. When it turned cold and the cat was happy and the dog.

AC: when they moved down.

I think that is an awfully good story.

FB: Lovely. We loaded everything on a truck and we couldn't imagine. I drove the car and he drove the truck and I had this cat named Dinky, well, he was named cat. And we just adored him. And we moved Dinky too. So Dummy here put him in a cardboard box period, just shut up, you know. And the cat, you know, was confused. And I was going around the corner and I was going to drive them down here in this heap. So my husband had loaded everything on and he had changed his pants and had put his dirty pants in the seat of the car in the back and the cat started clawing the corner out of his box and he reached out and got these pants and he kept pulling them into the box. So my husband told me if I needed anything, just drive around him and park because he wasn't going very fast. So I drove around him and parked along in Pomona. He came and said, what's the matter? I said, well, the cat's in his box with his pants. (laughter) He said, "I'll fix that." So I don't know, I think he went out in a grove there of oranges or grapefruit or something and got a picking box. And I

don't know where he got this piece of wire, but he mailed it, shut the box up, mailed it and stuck the cat in there. And the cat was meowing. And so I couldn't drive with this cat meowing and we were coming along the highway. I had water and I thought what in the world. So I just took a little water and threw it at the cat. The cat was so busy licking himself he forgot to meow. So I guess I did that about maybe four times between there and here. Well, I dumped the cat in Vegas anyway. And he lived to be twenty-one years and seven months old when I had him put to sleep. Well, anyway, we were here and it was hot. And we didn't mind it. We loved it. My husband thrived on it, Paul did, I did, it was marvelous. And H. O. Davis owned that garden and he bought it and worked together.

PY: The two-story house and garden?

FB: Yes, H. O. Davis. H. O. and Minnie Davis. They had two sons and a daughter, little Dick and Jack and I don't know the daughter's name.

AC: I heard

FB: But anyway.

PY: Now you moved into the house?

FB: Yes. We moved in this house. In fact, I told my husband,

I said, you know, it's going to rain up here. And he said, yes, and there's no tar paper. And I said, you'd better get it because if you don't get it, I'm moving into the town. So he found H. O. and H. O. let him go into town and get some tar paper. And he brought it back and put it on that roof and the next day they were

It just rained cats and dogs. Well, we lived there from June, I think it was January, I'm not sure, Ken and Juanita were living, that was when sister and brother-in-law, and they lived in the adobe house that Bert had used for a help house right near his house. And they bought the Johnny Beck place which is over, it's still there, it's over between Fairway and 111. Yes. Well, anyway, they had bought that and it was an Easter Sunday, but they moved in that house and we moved in their house. How was that? They moved in the old adobe house, oh, we moved into Glen's guest room which was just off the pool and lived there and waited until Ken and Juanita got into Johnny Beck's house. That was about 1944.

It all just happened real fast. And when they moved to Johnny Beck's place, we moved into their house and we lived there for twenty-five years in

the old adobe house. Of course, it was built onto
got air conditioning down there and we
painted it and did a lot of things to it, built onto it
and made it bigger.

AC: It was just

FB: Everybody just loved it. One friend of mine who later
got to be a friend of mine who was the husband of

We were driving on the highway
one day and we had
get back in time, but anyway, and he told her not knowing
that she knew me, he said, I've got to see that little
house there. He said, it looks exactly like Little
Red Riding Hood's house. (laughter) So they drove up
around the house to see it. And he said, it was just
darling. Everybody loved it. We had a lot of flowers.

PY: What was it like when you first moved into it and when
did you add on?

FB: When we moved into it, of course, Ken and Juanita had
added on and enclosed, let's see, they enclosed the,
well, it's a slab out in back, I guess it was a patio,
and then they enclosed one on the front. Originally it
was one room and a bath. It was for a bachelor. There
was a little wood stove in the corner with a little hole

in the wall for the pipe to go out, and there was a little partition between the living room and the kitchen. And when we started remodeling, of course, they had to have more rooms so they made the bedroom on the back and the bedroom on the front. The boys in the back and they were in the front. And when we moved there, we built the kitchen and the dining room on the east side of it. That we built out of brick.

AC: And a beautiful fireplace.

FB: And a beautiful fireplace, gorgeous fireplace. It was built by Joe E. Dixon, that had a motel down here in Palm Desert. He's an expert on fireplaces. And we got the rock from up here about the first bridge on Highway 74, off the other side of the mountain up there. And carted it up. I put shutters in and we painted it nice inside and brushed it, you know, like a house, and

AC: I'll never forget the night we had down at the ranch.

PY: Why?

AC: We had a wonderful pool, a large one, that had fresh water in it. Nothing chlorinated about it.

FB: Well, it was built during the war and we called it . . .

AC: A cistern or a dam or a holding, a reservoir, yes.

FB: For irrigation, but it wasn't for irrigation, it was for swimming.

AC: But we used it for swimming and then they irrigated with it. And we only swam when Glen had just filled it.

FB: And that water came out of the well at seventy-eight degrees in winter and summer. And it was just marvelous! And Tommy Thompson was there at a party one month and he said, I have never seen a more beautiful pool even in Honolulu. And my husband kept it painted with aluminum paint and then when you'd fill it up with that fresh blue water and put a little blue stone in it and why you could drink it.

PY: Is it still there?

FB: It's still there, yes. I can take you up to show you.

PY: Oh.

AC: And it was wonderful. But we, one night we were sitting there after a swim and the trees and a Palo Verde broke down.

FB: It just laid down on the lawn.

AC: Beautiful plantings there and Glen kept the place just in apple pie order.

FB: It was just like a park, so orderly, just like a park from end to end. There was not a week^d, there wasn't

anything. It was beautiful

: Flowers.

FB: Flowers and you know, they had music in the trees. You know they'd play their hifi and it would be outside.

I would invite everybody in Palm Desert that I knew, and I knew practically everybody

We'd swim and barbecue and my husband would go down and get corn, you know, and bring it in. We'd cook corn, barbecued chicken and swim, watermelon and sleep until twelve, one o'clock and then they'd get up and everybody would go home.

AC: And everybody, and people would even invite people as they do on the desert.

FB: Yes.

AC: And used to say, who are those people? Well, they're someone that Susie brought along. Susie would invite ants to her picnic if she thought they didn't know where it was.

FB: (laughter) Well, Anne, you'd make a dump cake.

AC: Yes.

FB: And she'd bring that and jello. (laughter)

PY: What's a dump cake?

AC: (laughter) Oh, it's just to keep, you put everything in

it all at once.

FB: Just in a flat pan.

AC: And it would come out fresh before the sun went down,
you know, and it was good.

FB: We had dump cake and we'd go to Borman's and get chicken.

AC: Yes.

FB: And barbecue chicken. And fix corn.

AC: We had lots of good times.

PY: What's Borman's?.

FB: Borman's was, I didn't know his first name, but he had
a chicken place. He went to Banning and brought chickens
down here and sold them. At one time up here at this
Mary Mug ~~his~~, it's Mary Mug

AC: Yes, the Mary Mug.

FB: Yes.

AC: It is on . . .

PY: 111.

AC: Yes, on 111. The north side.

FB: He had a grilled chicken place in there.

AC: Very good chicken.

FB: Excellent. The best I've ever had.

AC: Yes. They were wonderful. They were all nice and fresh.

FB: He would kill on his way back from Banning one day when

he went up there to get chicken, he had gone beside the bridge there.

AC: Yes.

FB: River.

AC: Where the bridge, it goes over the railroad.

FB: That was before they fixed the highway up over it.

AC: Yes.

FB: That underpass.

PY: What is Ben doing?

FB: Well, pollenating dates.

AC: He was foreman at the ranch.

FB: A foreman. He was the foreman of the Ranch.

AC: Oh.

FB: He was the foreman and at one time we worked with that.

They would come over and come to the ranch and they would sit around outside and you could tell they were hungry.

And they couldn't speak a word of English and you couldn't understand them, but they knew it was a ranch.

And they would sit around out there and wait and my husband say, "What are we going to do?" I mean, you know, we need help, and he called the Border Patrol and they'd say, now there's X number, two or three or four boys out here. What are you going to do? I don't want

anything to cause any problems.

AC: Yes.

FB: And they'd say, well, you can do us a favor by having them because they were taken off the street, you'll keep them busy, it will feed them, and so they'd come. But they would come and get them. When we get food for them, we'll come and get them. You understand that. So they would work along with us. We gave them a place to live. And he would take them to Indio to buy their food. He couldn't speak their language either. I guess they had some sort of a sign language set up. But he would take them in there and buy their food and bring them back. One of them wanted a radio, but he didn't want it to speak anything but Spanish. He said he wanted a radio. So my husband took him down there to the army surplus store and told them they wanted a Spanish-speaking radio. Of course, he understood. He'd like the Spanish-speaking station and the man was happy with it. He brought it home. I don't think he ever changed the station. Then they had some that came in there. They'd never seen a lawn mower. He asked his father the lawn mower. And one of them who was very old, I don't know what his last name was, he wanted to be a

bandido in Mexico and he wanted my husband to give him a gun. He said, no way would he give him a gun. So one day he fell out of the tree, and it was down below the house. Of course, my husband wasn't right there when he fell out of the tree, and they didn't know what to do. So they ran and pulled grass up and put it under his head for a pillow and sort of braced him so he wouldn't hurt, you know. And one of them got my husband and he went down. And then, of course, he took him into Indio. I guess he must have taken him because I don't remember him calling for an ambulance. I don't think there was one. And he took him in there and they put him in the hospital and got him together again. And then he was back and then he got to feeling bad. So my husband took him back to the hospital and he was fine in the hospital. He brought him home and he started wilting. He just wasn't well, you know, he had to go back to the hospital. Found out he was in love with the nurse. (laughter) And then he had a, we actually, they had an inspection, an inspector from, I guess from Mexico, which came up and he went around and inspected all the living quarters for the Mexicans. I don't know what the point was, but anyway, they said we had some of the best houses for them.

And we had a gas stove that turned out to be an antique.

Well, it was a gas stove; we had borrowed this one.

And I don't think they'd ever seen gas. It had a top on it like a wood stove with a little lid. They didn't like that. They took all that off outside and threw it out. And they went and got a piece of corrugated tin and put on top. They were making the tortillas on that.

AC: How about their singing.

FB: My husband would go up every morning and they didn't realize that he didn't want them to have that tin. He wanted them to use the top of the stove to make the tortillas. But it took too long to heat up, you know; with the tin it was real fast. And he would get so mad. He would say a few choice words and grab that tin and burn his hands, but he got it outside. Then he brought it in and set it back together. And it took about three times to make them realize that they were going to use the top of that stove or not make tortillas. By then we had them move back. In fact, the turn over was terrific. And some of the boys became citizens and one of them married. And his brother was in a bad accident along Highway 111. I don't even know where any of them are now. But one of them worked for my husband

in 1955 and he now is a gardener in Palm Desert. But they used to come to work. They'd bring them out from town and then ours, when they were really pollinating because we couldn't get enough help, we couldn't keep enough help, they would go up those trees and

in the early morning and they'd work all day. Never complain. I mean, they knew better than to because after all they needed to work and needed the food. They needed everything. And they had wonderful working conditions. I mean, better than they had in Mexico. They'd have everything they could want. And they bought cars, and they bought things for their wives. And they would save them up and then take them back rather than mail them back because the mail down there, half of it never got there. And my husband used to take them in to send money home to their parents and to their wives or whatever who'd buy ranches down there because they could take a little bit they was making here and really buy a lot. One man set himself up down there with a ranch and everything just by sending money. Well, I'll never forget the time when he started learning the Mexican, it was a dialect, was what it was because each state in Mexico has a different dialect.

And he couldn't get it over to these boys that he wanted this ladder on the truck. So he kept telling them in English and showing them. And they know you know, so finally he lowered the ladder on the truck himself and then (laughter)

But they used to come to the house and they'd bring Paul gifts, you know, because he was a boy. They loved boys. (laughter)

PY: Well, told me that your husband used to bring them into the store in Palm Desert.

FB: Right. Yes, he did. Well, now when the sales was down there, why he took them down there. And they bought the most expensive things. Canned chicken, they just loved it. And anything, they'd never seen a lot of things. Yes, as long as there was no store out here, we had to go to Indio to get everything, even a quart of milk.

AC: And by that time Glen spoke most of the dialect.

FB: He could talk to any of them about anything they wanted to talk on.

AC: It was wonderful.

FB: He was real good at it. But he was glad when they got a store out here because it saved him having to go over to

Indio, but he had to take them there to buy clothes and things like that. And to send their money to Mexico because there was no post office out here. But he was glad when they got a store down here. And they were too because it took them two minutes to run down to the store. I tell you, we had boys come in there, I didn't have much money either because my husband left two hundred and fifty dollars a week to come down here for forty bucks a week and this broken down house. And most boys would come there without anything and he'd come in and he gave them money. What about you? And I'd shell out ten bucks, take them down and buy them, you know. Well, I never got the money back, but that wasn't the point, you know. They knew it, and they thought it was a gift from the ranch. So, I said, well, just fine, Merry Christmas. (laughter)

PY: Wasn't the store in Indian Wells open, that little one next to the coffee shop?

FB: Well, that was never anything.

PY: Couldn't you get a quart of milk there?

FB: Well, if you wanted to pay milk in gold.

PY: Oh.

FB: You couldn't get anything.

AC: No.

FB: Really, you had to go into Indio to get, well, you might get a quart of milk and bread, but we always went into Indio because we didn't run to the store just for a quart of milk. We went once a week and we bought what we needed for a week, and we didn't go back until the next week because, well, we were still on A rations, chicken. And we had no air conditioning in the car. And the car wasn't very good either. (laughter)

PY: Did you do a lot of shopping at the Palm Village store when it opened?

FB: Well, I'd go to Indio. You know how it is. I go to Palm Springs now and Palm Desert, Indio, just because they're there. I bought most everything at the Palm Desert but I'd go to Indio to get some things because I'd have to go in there to buy other things. And, you know, it was a day out. (laughter)

AC: We always called the Palm Village Market our store.

FB: Our store. It was known lovingly as our store.

AC: One year the Andrews left to go up to Washington to fish. And wasn't too nourishing, you know, in the summertime, so they left and several times they left the manager with us, but one year they played completely

so most of us went over to Rancho Mirage to Kirk Ring's. Kirk Rings had the key to the market. And we'd go over to Kirk's or when anyone of the neighbors . . . there was a wonderful feeling about all the people who came here. They would stop in and say, "I'm going to Indio, do you need anything or does somebody want to go along." And I said, "Oh, yes, Harold, I'd like to go." And he said, "Are we out of peanut butter already?" We lived very closely to whatever we had and then he said how much money do you think you'll need. Is a dollar too much? (laughter) But Marguerite, he would stop in and say, "Well, I'm going to Indio. Come along." Or whatever. But everyone was neighborly.

FB: Yes, they were. There was only, well, Bill and Carmen Cook, they were there, and they had Nicky their son and he was about the age of Paul. So they got together and then Larry and Danny, and that was all there was.

PY: Larry and Danny?

FB: Lecky. They were the nephews of Glen Wilson. They were going to school and Nicky was going to Palm Valley School in Idyllwild. He was up there all winter long. He was here in the summertime, most of the summertime.

AC: It was the Desert Sun School.

FB: Desert Sun. I didn't think that sounded right.

AC: Yes.

FB: Desert Sun. Well, anyway, Crown and made a swimming pool down there and we had one at the ranch. And their water came out on the street.

AC: Oh.

FB: And they would come out there.

AC: I didn't know that.

FB: Yes. It was so cold, it would turn you blue on the hottest day. And ours was warm, you know, seventy-eight degrees. It felt cool with the outside temperature high, but . . .

AC: Just exactly right.

FB: The kids would swim there. And then they'd go down there some. And then Waldron, Cap Waldron, had the Grass Shack Nursery in, let's see, it was on 99 first. Then it opened in Indio. And they had a son; they called him DeeDee, and I don't know what his name was, do you?

AC: No.

FB: Anyway, DeeDee would come out and play with the boys. And one day the three of them were playing, and Nicky started a fire. And I think he caught on fire, almost

caught on fire, or something and they put him out.

Well, that put a stop to that. (laughter)

PY: Do you know where Danny went to now?

FB: They are living back east somewhere. They're both instructors in junior colleges back in Ohio, back in there someplace.

AC: Wisconsin or someplace in the middle west.

FB: Danny teaches phys ed as far as I know and Larry is in electronics. Now let's see, what was that piece in the paper about? I don't remember. It doesn't seem like it was electronics.

AC: We met them at the airport one day.

FB: Yes. But Ken and Juanita are both dead. But the boys were back. I haven't seen them in years. I was trying to think where it was that Larry

AC: Physics or some part of electronics.

FB: It was something, I think. I think that's what it was. It doesn't seem right that that's what it was, but anyway, if I can find out I'll let you know. I probably will.

PY: Tell me about

AC: Oh, yes. Well, we sent out letters a couple of times and then in 1947 or 1945, Bob Ellsworth sold us this lot. And I will have you two know that it is the

choice lot on this street according to Colonel Bob Ellsworth. And Carl Hanson, who lives next door, said that was the same thing he told them. (laughter)

FB: Then that choice lot.

AC: I think we paid fifteen hundred dollars or twelve hundred dollars for this lot. And first we thought, oh, it's just a but we'll come down and build a little winter home on it. And so along about after the war we came down in 1946 and 1947 and built this house. We had some subcontractors and this floor in this little house is quite unique because it was not made with a cement mixer, one of those great big dump things, but it was hand wrung, you know, from a little mixer because some years ago just about four or five years ago a young man who does concrete work in Cathedral City, oh, he's older now, he came to the door. He was with Carl doing something for Carl over there. I believe he was going to do a driveway. And he said, "Do you know as a young kid I helped do this floor," and it had all kinds of cracks in it, you know, but they put color in the top of it. And he said that was over thirty years ago. But we made it for just a sun place with big windows here. And then we decided, it was like

we decided that we liked it so well that we would come back and live here. And Carl has always had a dream of having a little furniture store. So in 1948 we brought all of our things down in a four-wheeled trailer. And, by the way, we met the Andrews on the way. We were going down to Oregon to do some book work, some accounting, for clients of ours on the Oregon coast. And as we rounded the curve, we had a little breakdown and the Andrews stopped on the highway and came back. So we all went to Port Orford and had a nice reunion. And then we came on down and the house was enclosed. It was almost finished then. It took them an awfully long time to even get painted; I remember that, but we still lived in it because Harold had this dream of a furniture store. So we rented one of the only business buildings. It was called "Built by K. C. Meyers." Harold always called them K. C. and the bat. (laughter)

FB: He was the nicest. One day Bromley came in to get his mail, and Jeanette Winegarten was working there.

AC: Was the assistant.

FB: With Bill, and they walked up to the window and he said,

"Any mail for me?" And Bill said, "What is the name?" And he said, "Baker Osby," and when he went out, why Jeanette said, "Didn't you know who that was?" And Bill said, "No, he didn't know me and I didn't know him, so we're even." (laughter)

AC: That almost matches the one in Clint's first five little stores. Valli and Joe McMahan . . .

FB: Right.

AC: Had a malt shop and I was in there one day. We all went there for cokes or a malt or something when we weren't over at Vickey and Paul's eating. And Joe served some orangeade. A couple of hot looking people came in, and he said, "You fellows working around here?" Because at that time in the summer of 1948, the Shadow Mountain Club was being built. And, no, he said, we're around. It was Edgar Bergen. (laughter) So we always laughed about that.

PY: Who's Vickey and Paul?

AC: Vickey and Paul had the first cafe and they were wonderful cafe people.

FB: Marvelous.

AC: Just marvelous people and they were only equaled by Laura and Milt Hunter who bought their cafe from them.

Vickey and Paul called it the Palm Desert Cafe, didn't they.

FB: I don't know. Vickey and Paul's is all I ever knew.

AC: We just called it Vickey and Paul's. And all of the villagers used to go there for Sunday morning breakfast. Paul was a very fine cook. And one summer he decided to go to Palm Springs and open the waffle shop. So we all got together and put on cummerbunds and went to a country morning breakfast on Palm Canyon Drive where Paul took on a new cafe. But Lorna and Milt Hunter, our good friends, bought the cafe from Vickey and Paul. And then later on, Vickey and Paul went to Blythe and we remember them.

FB: Yes.

PY: Where was it?

AC: The cafe?

PY: Yes.

AC: It, they were one of the five little buildings with the Palm Desert Development Company elected. One was the post office. As Paul would say, it was guaranteed to last twenty years and the boards would go down. And they weren't on concrete or anything. They were on the . . . (laughter)

PY: Were those the buildings that where Market
Basket is now?

AC: Yes, on the corner there.

PY: Where Isore's?

AC: Yes. They were on skids so we could move them. Some of them are down here. On Highway 111.

FB: Just to where you get to the pilings on the left there?

AC: Yes.

PY: Oh, in Indio you mean.

AC: Yes.

PY: What are they doing there?

FB: Well, they moved them down there and made little cottages out of them for rental. Somebody did, I don't know who bought them.

AC: For health causes or regular rentals, I guess so.

FB: Out on the highway.

AC: But, anyhow, they made quite an imposing structures. They were painted white and they sat, one, two, three, four, five, and the Little Grass Shack Nursery had one of them.

FB: Oh, Jean Harlow Belham had an antique . . .

AC: No, Bunny started the antique shop.

FB: And she got it.

AC: She had teacups there and everything.

FB: (laughter)

AC: But Jean Harlow Bellow didn't start until May Hanson had her . . .

FB: Oh, yes, that's right.

AC: And we always laughed because later on Jean Bellow and all of the people who were renting from Mrs. Hanson got together to protest the high rent, forty-five dollars a month.

PY: That was the Patio Shop, wasn't it?

FB: Yes, that was the Hanson Patio Shop.

AC: Hanson's Patio Shop. Well, anyhow, we rented from K. C. Meyers and Mrs. Meyers, K. C. and and that could be deleted, I guess.

PY: Well, I don't think the Meyers are around.

AC: They aren't no.

FB: Nobody would know but us. That's right.

AC: And then we started the store in 1948, and it was just narrow a little/store and if you came in, things might fall on you.

FB: shot gun building right through.

PY: Where was it, Anne?

AC: Well, what is there now? It's Albright.

FB: Just Albright and Charlie White and a little sewing place and then . . .

AC: Yes, we were in the little sewing, the east. . . .

FB: It was the east section of the building next door to the Cannon Belt.

PY: Sewing alterations?

AC: Yes, that was our first little store. And one day one of our famous characters, Dick Myrie. Have you ever heard of Dick Myrie?

FB: Oh, well, you haven't lived.

AC: Dick Myrie came in. He was one of the early members of Rotary and he built the first building on El Paseo.

FB: And it's still there. Who's in that building?

AC: I've forgotten, but Willie Alexander said she would love to go through everything.

FB: I would, too.

AC: Dick Myrie, he was the handiest man and Harold greatly admired him because he had all the tools in the world. He could do almost anything.

FB: Well, he flew during the war, and they were downed in Alaska, and he reconstructed a propeller blade that got them out.

AC: He really was . . .

FB: But he always carried a portable bar at Christmastime with him. He would come to your house for a drink, to give you a drink. He didn't invite anybody in there. That was the boar's den, and he lived upstairs sort of on a shelf.

AC: Yes, I know what he called it.

FB: What?

AC: When he came to our store one day and Harold was making some shelving and he said to Harold, "Are you building you a mezzanine?"

FB: (laughter) I don't believe that's it.

AC: And he had this carpenter apron on. And he got all his money in dollar bills, or if he paid for his groceries, he'd take the oldest check he had and he charged in those days he charged plenty, and . . .

FB: But it was worth it.

PY: What was plenty?

AC: Plenty was, I don't know, he'd just say what a job would cost.

FB: Well, it might have been thirty dollars which . . .

AC: Amazing. Usually you got three dollars an hour, two fifty for installing drapery. But if you need

FB: But if you needed him, if any of the widows needed him, they'd call him and say, Dick so and so, you know. Yep, be right there. And, oh, there he'd go humming and carrying his stuff. But at Christmastime he carried this little portable bar. It was all he could do to lift it and he'd sit it down on the floor. And he'd unlock it at the top and let it lay down and he had all the different kinds of mixes and and everything and glasses. And he'd mix you anything you wanted. (laughter)

AC: And he was quite a, I think he'd been kind of a ladies' man, don't you think?

FB: I think so, or he thought he was.

AC: Yes. Do you remember the story of the turkey?

FB: No, what was it?

AC: Don't you know? He had a roast turkey he was going to take to Peggy's for Thanksgiving dinner. And his nice dolly, the donation.

FB: (laughter)

AC: Do you remember about it?

FB: (laughter)

AC: Went on the table and got it. But we all felt saddened when Dr. Jensen found him one day.

FB: No, it was Ralph Wagner that found him.

AC: Oh, was it Ralph Wagner.

FB: Yes.

AC: Oh, yes. That was right. He had a heart attack. He built the first concrete block building.

FB: Well, listen . . .

AC: On El Paseo.

FB: I was going down the highway, and at that time it was a two-lane highway, you could just turn off of it and go down that little ditch right across the desert to the back of this building. I'd go across right about where Dr. Jensen's office's, where the Jensen building is. So one day I turned off and just drove across the desert up there, and he had two saw horses out there with plywood on it. And he was like he was throwing dirt on it, you know, but I couldn't see what he was doing and I got up pretty close and then I saw what he was doing. He had some paint sitting there. And I said, "Oh, I'm sorry I caused so much dust." He said, "Oh, that's all right." He said, "I got this board and this guy up here wants a cover for his window, but he wants it to look like his stucco. But I can't make stucco, so I just put a lot of white paint on this piece of plywood and I

throw dirt on it and let it dry. And then I paint it and by golly you can put it up in front of one of those sliding glass doors and you'd think it was stucco."

PY: So where was he building it? Are we talking about

AC: Yes, we're talking about I came out in
1951, 1950 and 1951.

FB: Yes.

AC: Because . . .

FB: But his was the first building and the next building was the beach. Is that right?

AC: Yes. I think that's right.

FB: Yes, and Ralph Deets were the decorators. But it's right, you know where Dr. Jensen's, the Jensen Building is, on Highway 111.

PY: What's the nearest cross street?

FB: Well, it's halfway between.

PY: Foster:

FB: San Luis Rey and Portola.

AC: A rather wealthy woman bought that building. Do you remember?

FB: I want to say Erlene.

AC: No, it wasn't Erlene.

FB: There's a dress shop or something in there now.

AC: Yes. But she completely remodeled it.

FB: Yes. Only those two outer walls were standing.

AC: All standing, yes. And we always suspected that they might have some money in them.

FB: Yes, they do.

PY: The first building on El Paseo then, is that where
Desert Beautiful is now?

AC: No. No. But Desert Beautiful or that green building
was one of the first buildings.

FB: Yes, but Dick's was the first. Nothing else.

PY: Where is it? What is it now?

FB: A dress shop, and my parents . . . Well, I'll tell you how to find it. You look for the Jensen Building on 111. That's between Portola and San Luis Rey. And look right straight back. And it's dark in color and that is the building.

PY: The Clothes Horse.

AC: Could be, yes, I think it is the Clothes Horse. Yes, it is.

PY: construction El Paseo.

FB: Yes, but it has brick walls on the outside.

PY: It's a very exclusive high priced.

AC: Yes.

FB: Yes. I don't know who bought that, but . . .

AC: It was someone who lived at Indian Wells, a very wealthy widow bought it. I'm certain that Willie would know.

But these names skip.

FB: Well, they buy and sell so fast, you can't keep up with them.

AC: That's right. In 1951 Harold got the idea that it would be fun to have our own building. And he was a great person. He decided that this is what he wanted to do so we got loans on everything we could get our hands on, you know. If you had an insurance policy, you'd get a loan on it. And, so then Ted Pearson helped us get the loans and, or the loan, and then I guess we borrowed on all our life insurances. And we did have a lot over on El Cortez that had a smoke tree on it. We just bought it one day just because it had a smoke tree on it, and we wrote to Chris of the Mullen Investment Company. They still own some of the lots on this side of the highway. And Harold said, "How about turning in our lot on El Cortez for the corner lot up at the corner of Highway 74 and 111." And they wrote back and said we're pleased to do that. That's just fine. We own this one, and

Bob Ellsworth again helped us get that lot and we had to paid, of course, cash for it. But meantime we'd borrowed everything because I remember our payments were sixty-six dollars and sixty cents, one of them, and eighty-eight dollars and eighty-eight cents, and we had no insurances. But we got those things all paid. But everybody wished you well and hoped you'd come out of it all right and some days we didn't have very much business because I didn't think it was too good some of the time because I'd been used to a grocery store. And I like the action of a grocery store, but one day Harold went to the Andrews Market. Everybody landed there about five-thirty, six o'clock. We knew what everyone was having for supper, you know, because we always stop to get our supplies. And Dorothy said to him, "Well, Harold, what kind of a day did you have today?" And he said, "It wasn't a complete bust. We had a refund." (laughter) So on June 10, 1951 at three thirty we moved into the new store. And Harold put it down on the light panel, but we opened, or we went to the building there at seventy-three one ninety-six Highway 111. And it was the largest building at that the of town.

FB: And it was a gathering place for everybody. They went by

and Anne made tea and cookies and they sat around there all afternoon and talked.

AC: It was Marian always, Marian always called it the tea house of the August moon. (laughter) Because everyone gathered there and we did everything there. If you wanted to have a meeting or an election or if you wanted to sell theatre tickets, well, we did that, it was a real good gathering place.

FB: I was on the election board when it was 95 in the whole entire area to vote.

PY: What's the area?

FB: Well, it was from Washington to Rancho Mirage.

AC: Yes.

FB: And all around here, 95. Wasn't even 100.

AC: It was probably to Wonder Palms because they all voted over here.

FB: Yes.

AC: Remember the Velates?

FB: Oh, yes, it had to be Wonder Palms.

AC: It had to be Wonder Palms.

FB: Yes.

AC: It's now called the Frank Sinatra.

FB: I know it was the Washington down there and we all came

down there to vote and everybody would advice everybody how to vote. (laughter) By noon, everybody had voted, but we couldn't count on them until closing time.

We'd have a party at the Palm Village Inn. Angelo was there then, and he'd fix up salad and everything and bring it over. And everybody would stop by and visit and everything. I was trying to think who was head of the election board then.

AC: Sophia Muller.

FB: No, her name was Ellen. Ellen Muller.

AC: Yes.

FB: That was in charge. But would she be the judge or . . .

AC: She would be the inspector.

FB: I thought I was the inspector.

AC: All right.

FB: She was head of it.

AC: She would be the chairman.

FB: And I was one of the inspectors and Warner was on it, too. And he was very, very proper. So the funniest thing that ever happened was when we got all this paraphernalia to vote, why here on each ballot, I never, you know, I voted but nobody ever gave me anything. Here was that little triangular piece with

a number on it. And there was a needle and thread in the form of twine. And I said, "Well, Ellen, what do we do with this?" "Well," she said, "when they vote tear that little thing off and string it, the number on that string." And I said, "Okay." You know, you're not going to argue with the head man. And nobody brought their numbers that they were supposed to get. We strung them on this string, and they went away happy because evidently they didn't know either. (laughter) So I was sitting there with nothing to do and reading this book and I said, "Ellen, it says here in the book that you're supposed to give the number to the people that vote." She said, "That is not right." And I said, "Look." And she read it and she didn't say anything. And the next year, Mr. was in charge and he thought I was real smart because I found that out and I got to be on it again. (laughter)

AC: I was thinking about Warner and his wife, Lillian

FB: Lillian

AC: Yes. They lived on San Jacinto.

FB: Right over here.

AC: Right over there. And he bought one of the original houses in Palm Desert. And then he built one or two

more. You remember Edna Value lived there in one of them.

FB: Wasn't he the planner for Packard Motor

AC: He was the designer for Packard Motor and Harold always thought a good phrase was, at the Steinway.

(laughter) But they moved here about that time, they retired and took a great part in all the happenings of the desert. And they enjoyed the square dancing and all of that. There was quite a group of those people who didn't have to work for a living.

FB: That's right. It's where they could . . .

AC: Yes. And there we are.

FB: Well, I was thinking, I have a picture of the Crocodile Club, and that's where the post office was originally.

AC: Yes.

FB: And I'll look that up.

AC: The first post office was in one of Cliff's little buildings.

FB: It was based over . . .

AC: And then the Crocodile Club.

FB: It was on the corner and faced 111.

AC: Yes.

FB: Yes.

AC: Yes. The first little building, the first post office was in one of the buildings. That was a great disappointment to Rocky Hune. He had wined and dined people of the Post Office Department when the Mullen Investment Company had started Palm Village. And he wanted it to be called Palm Village. That was what the Mullen Investment Company thought. Well then, of course, the war put a stop to all of that. And then Cliff came with his ideas and named it Palm Desert. And of course there was more activity then on that side of the street.

FB: Well, I can remember a couple that came down when I was working for Dot and Marie in their little mall shop.

AC: Yes.

FB: And they came in there and asked me, there was nothing on the other side, absolutely nothing, and they asked me where would be the best place to build. And I said, "Well, if I were building, it would be on the other side of the highway because that is the place that's going to develop first. I said, "This has gone as far as it's going to go right now. It's going to be over there." And they built a house that is now on the west side of the corner house up here behind the Sunshine, you know the little white house on the corner. Well, that was

Gabby Hayes. And the next house was the house that these people built in Fred's building across the highway.

They were starting to open up, but they didn't have anything. And, oh, were they ever sick when they built that nice house there and they started building, you know, junk in them. They wished that they had gone to the other side.

AC: There were some very interesting people who came here. Gabby and Dorothy Hayes lived here. And he was just a beautiful gentleman.

FB: Oh, he was wonderful!

AC: And he spoke in the most beautiful diction like an Englishman. He really was fine, and then he could do all the oldtime cowhand talk, you know.

FB: He always made films without his teeth because that helped.

AC: Yes.

FB: (laughter)

AC: But they were such good neighbors and good friends. Many people came who were retired , and there was a nice group of people who enjoyed all the activities that they had at Shadow Mountain. And all the rest of us worked hard. I'll never forget one morning Susie and I were

going to the store. She picked me up and took me down to the store and she said, "I'll never forget it. I came to the desert to retire and have all the time I wanted to do the things I'd been planning on and I've never worked so hard for a living in my life."

FB: That is true. I have never worked any harder in my life than I have in this desert. But I would not complain.

AC: We just all worked hard seven days a week.

FB: There's no, I mean, had no room for complaint. I've enjoyed every minute of it. I loved it.

AC: Having the furniture store was a lot of fun. W

FB: We met everybody.

AC: We met everybody and very interesting people besides it being sort of a social center. It was all plate glass then. And you weren't afraid of anything. It was just a lot of . . .

FB: We slept outside.

AC: Yes.

FB: Once we went away for two weeks and didn't even lock our door, you know. Nobody touched anything.

AC: One of our characters was Joe, the locksmith.

FB: Yes.

AC: And I was always going, forgetting my key or something,

and one night I was supposed to stay with Jackie. The Andrews were gone. And in the morning I forgot and locked the door. And Jackie had already left for school. And I knew that she would come home at three o'clock and there was a dust storm. You can't imagine how dusty it was. So I panicked. I couldn't get back in the Andrews house and I knew Jackie would come at two thirty or three and be there, so I went, got in the car and went down to the Standard station. Isn't that where he hung out, or was it Jerry Malone? It's a Standard.

FB: At the Standard.

AC: At the Standard station that was built in the wrong place.

FB: Right.

PY: Why?

AC: Well, they put the tank in. It was well out on the street, wasn't it?

FB: (laughter)

AC: I've forgotten. But anyhow, Joe, the locksmith, came from Desert Hot Springs and had his large truck.

FB: Orange truck.

AC: A big orange truck. And he was stopped, thank goodness, that early morning day and he looked out and he said, "What has happened to you now? What have you done?"

And I said, "Oh, Joe, I have locked the Andrews door."

And he said, "Well, I'll follow you up." So he followed me up to the Andrews and it was a dollar and a half to unlock that.

FB: His name was Joe Castro, wasn't it?

AC: Joe Castro.

FB: He was a Frenchman and his father was in the American Army. He was an American soldier and he was French. He was really one of the most loyal Americans I ever met. Boy, he would get up there and just tell you all about it.

AC: Another time one of my customers had a little boy who couldn't see anything without touching it. And we had a little safe in our safe where we kept our insurance papers, no money, but Harold had made a nice sign on it and it said, this safe is open. Please do not blow. You know, but you're welcome in it. The sign was used, too, once.

FB: (laughter)

AC: But anyhow this little boy had, couldn't read and of course trailing things had locked the safe where I couldn't get at my records. So I called up Joe and that time it was intriguing for him. He just did a

Jimmy Valentine on it and sat down and . . .

FB: And lecturing you every minute.

AC: Lecturing me every minute, but telling stories of how he got into things. And he was just, he really could tell some good tales. But that was one of the services we had.

PY: How about Andy, the that you wrote about?

AC: Well, Andy lived over in the cove area, you know, and we always stopped. He'd come down the highway and he usually wore a bright red shirt. Now in this film, he has a blue shirt on, but they think CBS might have given it to him because he usually did wear a red shirt because he could be seen.

PY: Yes.

AC: And he, as I said, we usually took his donkeys bales of hay because Harold thought Christmas was for kids and animals. And they would bray every time our pickup approached. And then Andy had these cute little terrier dogs, too, that were always fun. And he often sold cocks if he got them. They were used to stop at Andy's.

FB: I was opening and closing houses then and when people would leave for the summertime, they just got up and leave, you know, and there would be all sorts of things

in their refrigerator that was perfectly good. And I thought, well, gee, I don't want to throw that away. There would be jam and butter and everything and anything you'd need.

AC: Lard, bacon.

FB: Lard, bacon, anything. And I'd give it away, you know, what I couldn't use, and then I got the idea of Andy. And I went down there and asked him if he would mind if I brought him some things. And he said he'd be delighted to have them. So I would load everything up and take it down to Andy. And one day I said, what do you need most? He said, bacon fat. And so I said, well, a lot of these people save bacon fat, just everybody does. I don't know why. And I made the mistake of taking a can of this bacon fat without a lid on and down to him. And I sat it down on the floor of the car and it got spilled out, you know. And I had a rancid car for as long as I kept it. It was a rancid car anyway. But after that I would put it in the freezer and freeze it and then I would take it down to him. And I asked him if he wore about the same size jeans that Paul did. So I'd ask him if he minded if I gave him all the jeans and shirts he'd outgrown. He said, absolutely not. So I'd wander

everything real good and I never gave him anything that was patched. I threw it away. But, you know, it might have worn knees but they didn't have patches. And he was going around wearing whatever clothes or whatever I'd take him. (laughter)

AC: We used to see him at Jenny's. Has anyone told you about Jenny? Jenny was an elderly, a very elderly, Irish lady, and I do not remember her last name, but she had a little cafe at the end of Palm Village Drive. There is a motel I think now.

FB: I think it's Auto Sound now.

AC: It's called Auto Sound, but originally Jenny had a little cafe there. And whenever the Farmer Bros. coffee man didn't stop, she would ask Father Lisler to intercede for her. And Harold and I would go to breakfast and one morning she said, "You know, that's five eggs I have eaten." She ate anything she burned. I can eat eggs any way, raw or anything, but I do not like burned eggs. But she would make pancakes or toast. Slim used to stop and have a cup of coffee and a piece of pie or whatever she had there. And Andy often came in for coffee with lots of sugar in it, I remember. And so we used to visit over the counter at Jenny's. Well, this one morning she

said, "You know, I am just going to ask Father Lisler to see the Farmer's Bros. coffee man. He went by me again." And of course, she got about two pounds of coffee a week. And he probably with the hundred and twenty-one degrees. Sometimes the only, we had a Helzinsky what was his . . .

FB: Helms.

AC: Helms Bakery truck, yes.

FB: You called him Helzinsky because . . .

AC: That's what he said.

FB: He said he was . . .

AC: They were providing the bread for the Helsinky . . .

FB: Yes.

AC: And he said, "We're providing all the bread for the Olympic athletes at Helzinsky," so we always called him Helzinsky, but he was a nice fellow. And he stopped all the way along because just think of it, cream puffs and things.

FB: Eclairs.

AC: And eclairs, but anyhow, they all stopped at Jenny's and she got Father Lisler would intercede or saw the Farmer Bros. coffee man and ask him if, even if she only used a pound or two of coffee, would he please stop. And then

one summer morning early the Brookside Dairyman who brought us all milk came and was going on his early morning route, and he found Jenny sitting on her porch swing on the front porch of the little cafe and she had passed away looking at the moonlight that night because someone had been in for supper and a cup of tea. And she said she was going to enjoy the night. And then Father Lisler came to our store and we gave him boxes. He left everything to the St. Louis Church in Cathedral City, I remember.

FB: Then there was Mary Ann.

AC: Oh, yes. And next door to our store was Mary Ann's Waffle Shop.

FB: That's where Second Hand Rose's is now.

AC: Yes. Mary Ann and Louis Wahr, W-A-H-R, started this successful little waffle shop and people enjoyed going there for breakfast. And she made very good scrambled eggs and excellent sandwiches. And Jessie called her Marion Ann because after Louis passed away, she had several romantic interludes, but I bought one day her last husband John came in and said to me, "Would you like to buy Mary Ann's Plymouth car?" So I bought her pink Plymouth and we called it Second Hand Rose or the Pink

Cloud. Slim always called it the Pink Cloud. And so I bought that and Mary Ann and John had a happy, but busy, life there in the little waffle shop.

FB: Laura and Milt had their little eating shop on the other side of Ann's where the car wash is. That was really a great place. We had more fun there. People would stop. Buddy Rogers would come down to eat breakfast and take breakfast back up to Mary Pickford.

AC: It was such a good place. They were the prime people. And we had our family dinners there. Once I said to Milt, "I will help you, Milt." We were all going to gather for Thanksgiving dinner, I think, and Milt said, "All right," and I went there and then he said, "Why don't you get a cup of coffee and sit down at the counter." I wasn't any good. I couldn't help him the way he wanted it.

FB: Laura would cook it and then we would all sit around the corner. He would close it to the public. And then they would serve the Thanksgiving dinner and we would have a great time.

AC: And we always celebrated people's birthdays there, and you could order what you wanted. If you wanted prime rib, you could order that. And Milt would make up the

prime rib. Or if you wanted, it was just, he was the best cook in the world.

FB: He really was.

AC: He really was.

FB: But one thing you couldn't get Dick Meyers to buy you a donut. He'd buy you a cup of coffee.

AC: But you could pay for your own donut.

FB: Pay for your own donut. (laughter)

AC: I got in more work.

FB: I did too.

AC: I got in more work for, you know, was real expensive people, *gosh* whatever the violinist.

PY: Heifetz?

AC: Not Heifetz.

FB: No.

AC:

FB:

AC: the best viola player in America. And he had a house up there. He had married the widow of the Johnson Murphy Shoe Company or something. But anyhow, he got or Dick worked for all these people, but, as they would say, you could get him a job but he wouldn't buy you a donut.

FB: Buy you a donut. (laughter)

AC: You'd pay for your own donut.

FB: But the Olsens and Johnsons, you remember, well, you don't remember . . .

PY: We talked about all these places that were kind of around the furniture store. Were all the cafes in business at the same time?

FB: Oh, Vickey and Paul were first. Isn't that right?

FB:

AC: Yes, and they were Dot and Marie Hardy had a little malt shop and hamburger place in the building right west of the Sunshine place, where there's now an antique shop. Not the two-story, the little, that was the first. Right?

AC: Yes.

FB: Except Palm Village

AC: It was called the Palm Village Malt Shop.

FB: Yes.

AC: And Dot Hardy and Marie Hamoka.

FB: Yes, that's her name.

AC: Had that and they always enjoyed it because Harold wanted a pink stucco malt. And they had the best pie in the world. In the morning you told them to save pie

for you and they had a wonderful business.

FB: Vickey and Paul was next.

AC: Yes. And they were across the highway. ~~where the~~

FB: Where the Market Basket Center is, right near the corner there.

AC: And then Marie and Dot sold the Palm Village Malt Shop to another wonderful character.

FB: Character is the word.

AC: Her name was Ethel Broncorse. And Bob Keiffer called her Broncy. And she liked that name, so instead of Ethel Broncorse, she was Telly Broncy. And it was on a nice, well, we all liked it. And it was on a nice big sign-board Ethel Boncy, but she spoke in standard English. Have I told you this story? She was a grand person, and she could speak standard English, if she wanted to. She could be very ordinary, too, but on the morning after New Year's Eve, my stepdaughter Doris and her husband went up to have a cup of coffee at Broncy's. And they went for an early morning hike and someone came in and said, "Bronty, did you go to the dance last night?" Evidently there was a dance at Angelo's next door, and she said, "No, but it wasn't because it wasn't because I didn't have the chance." (laughter) But she was a

thoroughly wonderful person because she helped Harold and me and Elizabeth Hollenbeck to run the swimming pool. one very warm summer in 1950 and 1951.

FB: Now the swimming pool was . . .

AC: And Paul helped us on that, didn't he? He was one of the . . .

FB: He got to go swimming.

AC: Yes. Well, and then he was one of the guards that helped us. And Marilyn Ellsworth helped us, but Bronty was very public minded and she was a nice person. We've heard later that she went to Florida. I don't know, she sold her, I believe she closed out.

FB: There was a couple there that wasn't too successful.

AC: Oh, yes.

FB: I don't remember their name, but they just weren't v successful with it at all.

AC: And then we had another cafe. It was called the Pink Plum. (laughter) And it was where . . . have you heard of the Pink Plum? O. K. Lewis had it. And O. K. Lewis came into our furniture store when we were down on the highway close to her. And every day she would say, "What do you know that I should know?" She loved to talk, and she ran, had a very successful operation, I believe, in

Denver, Colorado. And this was different. The Pink Plum was . . .

FB: Well, she tried to make it ultra, ultra by serving French-style coffee to these construction workers, and you can imagine the comments.

AC: (laughter) That's right. She'd serve it in these little French deals.

FB: You know, instead of a mug, you know, for a construction worker.

AC: That's right. She did get . . .

FB: She was a good cook.

AC: Yes. And she did have among her clients was Al Lewis Huxley and his wife who lived here part-time, you know.

FB: And her husband was in construction.

PY: Opals?

FB: Opals.

AC: Yes.

FB: He was a nice guy, quiet. Never got a chance to say a word. (laughter)

AC: But Opal spoke to her just generally about the weather, and she was always planning to sell her place and once Opal even bought a new dress to go to escrow in and then backed out. It was the only time I have ever seen, what

was his name? Oh, Mr. Easley, Jim Easley, who had been a supervisor and was then in the Palm Village Land Company. He was quite dismayed and very unhappy because he had the deal fixed for Opal to sell the Pink Plum. The Pink Plum, by the way, is now offices. Yes.

FB: A jet spa.

AC: That's right. It's on Frontage Road here, or we call it Palm Village Drive. But they were, but she was a good cook. And we've had quite a few restaurants. One day Harold and I went into Bronty's to celebrate the first sale that we had made. So we went for coffee and a donut. Closed up the store to celebrate.

FB: (laughter)

AC: And I can actually remember we sold it to a gal from La Quinta, whatever/we sold, some furniture that required delivery. And that was really something. But Harold said, "Do you have a fresh donut?" And Bronty just drew herself up to her magnificent high-do hairdo and said, "They are reasonably fresh." Well, then five days or whatever, but they were fine for dunking.

FB: When I was helping Dot Harvey and Marie in their little malt shop, we used to once in awhile see a highway patrolman go along the highway, why we ran out and

watched him, and as far as you could see him, you know. You just didn't see anybody on the highway. Weekends there would be a few people, but never anything like that.

PY: Was it always 111 and then the Frontage Road?

FB: Yes.

AC: Yes.

FB: Well, Highway 111 was a two-way and on the other side there was a dip, like a ditch, that ran the length and that's where they put the other two lanes is where the ditch was.

AC: The berm, you know, that's called kind of a berm in front of our store, the big trucks would just come right off the highway instead of waiting to go to the place where you should turn, so Harold got thinking about it and he and Jim Easley decided, and we talked to Tom Carter, who had done all the landscaping up at the Shadow Mountain, and Tom said, "Why don't you plant big century plants and cactuses along the highway and they won't come down right off the highway, bang, right into your building?" So we did. We planted all the way along and Mary Ann got some Mexicans, wetbacks, I think, to plant, I don't know whether Slim helped us find the

fellows or not, but they planted a variety of cactuses because the Easley's had a lot at their place and we got a lot of the big century plants. And it made quite a formidable looking hedge along there and Mary Ann paid for hers, but we had to pay for the wealthiest woman in the desert, Adele Lingle owned a lot between us and Mary Ann. And Harold said, "We would be pleased to break up the cactus and to bring it in our truck if you would pay for, help pay for, your little section to be planted. I think it might be about seven fifty or five dollars or whatever." And she did not even answer him, so we all chipped in and paid for it.

PY: Is she the Lingle of Laguna Beach area?

AC: Yes. Lingle Lodge. She had . . .

FB: And she had a sort of motel or or something up here.

AC: Yes. And then there is a place, a lane that is named for her, Lingle Lane.

FB: Lingle Lane, yes.

AC: Lingle Lane.

PY: You were starting to talk about the house that built.

FB: Oh. Olsen and Johnson built this house, 73487 Grapevine,

oh, gosh, that was, when was that.

AC: Oh, it would be about 1950.

FB: Yes.

AC: Fifty, fifty-one.

FB: They built the main house and they had a swimming pool, and that's all they had. And then finally they moved a trailer in back of the double garage and that's where their help lived. And later they built a guest house which was at the end of the pool and it would sleep four people, had two bathrooms. It was sort of built big and open, you know, I mean, it was just fancy. And they lived there, they would come down weekends, and then they started to live down here. In fact, Mrs. Olsen and Joy, one of the daughters, lived down here all the time and Joy went to school. And Moya, the daughter, was married to Bill Leer of Leer Jet. Anyway, they lived here until Joy graduated and then they left. And they turned the house over to William Leer, and he owned it for a long time. And I managed it for him. It was great. He would call me from his jet telephone, and he would say, "Now I'm over Salt Lake City and we're going to be flying into Desert Air, and you be down there to pick us up." And I'd say, "Well, I'm going up to the

house now and turn the lights on and everything." And then he would land over there and I would go over and get him. And the story that was written about him in the Reader's Digest said that he would never ride in the car with somebody else driving. But I drove him. I picked him up at the airport and brought him home, and he let me. But he wouldn't let anybody else drive the car. Anyway, that's the one that I had thought, had got a message to them that we were to show the house. And Mrs. Scott said he would be pleased to have us do it because he's always having different places and kids up there. But anyway, they rented that house to Fred Waring, and they had guests, Gloria Swanson was in it, and that's another story. She came down with her maid and she told the maid that she was going to be a Palm Springs. Well, the maid came and in a chauffeur-driven limousine to Palm Springs or someplace and she looked around and she said, "Well, this isn't Palm Springs." And I said, "Well, no, it's Palm Desert. You're about fifteen miles from Palm Springs." So she said, "Well, I'm not going to stay." And I said, "Well, don't leave her on my hands because I don't want her." So when Miss Swanson came, why she had two boys with her. They were her, let's see . . .

AC: Composer and choreographer.

FB: Composer and choreographer. She was going to do "Sunset Boulevard" on Broadway, after she had done in on the screen. Do you remember "Sunset Boulevard." Okay. She was going to do it for Broadway. Well, I knew she'd never get even to New York with it because she had no voice for anything, but anyway, she wanted to rent a piano. So I, dummy, I mean I was trying to do things right for her because I was in charge of the Leer House and supposed to see that the renters got everything they wanted. So she wanted to rent this piano, so I called Indio and it was Chuck Yates' Music Store and he taught band at high schools. Paul was taking band. He was the band master then. So I talked to the boy in the store and I said, "Now I want to rent a piano." And he said, "Fine. Thirty-five dollars will get you a piano. We'll give you lessons. We'll furnish the free music for you." And I said, "Fine. Deliver it to," and I gave him the address, 73487 Grapevine. Anyway, he found . . . I said, "Gloria Swanson is the name." And he said, "Who?" And I said, "Gloria Swanson." So he said, "Just a minute." So Mr. Yates came to the telephone, and I told him who I was and I said, "We'd like the piano."

And he said, "Well, now, my boy made a mistake. We want a hundred and thirty-five," or a hundred and something for the piano. I said, "No. He promised me thirty or thirty-five," whatever it was, "and unless we can get it for that you can keep the piano." Because I began to see the light. He found out who he was renting to. I said, "I'm Paul Bowie's mother, and I don't want the piano. I'm trying to rent it for this customer." "No, it will be a hundred." "Well," I said, "you can keep it." So I didn't rent it from him. I called Riverside. Well, it was expensive to send it down from Riverside, so Dorothy Hansen, Carl Hansen's wife, next to Anne here, had an upright piano. So I called her and I said, "Dorothy, do you want to rent that piano to Gloria Swanson?" And she said, "Oh, use it. I'd love to have her use it." And I said, "No, she'll give you thirty-five dollars," plus they were going to rent one for him to Indio and I said, "She'll pay for having it tuned when she brings it up here, and then she'll pay to have it tuned when it comes back to your house." So Harold and Slim took Harold's trailer . . .

AC: Hydraulic trailer.

FB: Hydraulic trailer and came down here and got the piano

and took it up there and they were unloading it, and she was out there telling how to do it and my husband says, "Now, Little Girl, get out of the way, and we'll put the piano in the house." So she backed off, and they took this piano in the house and she used it and everything and she did keep her word. But she always said that she lived on health foods. She didn't. And her cook left her and housekeeper left her, just left her. So Gloria Swanson called me and she said, "Could you get me somebody?" And I said, "Well, I'll try." So I called this woman, Frieda Harrington in Glendale and asked her if she'd like to come down and work for Miss Swanson. She was going to be here a month.

AC: Purina.

FB: Purina Harrington.

AC: Isn't that a wonderful name?

FB: I said, "Okay." So her husband brought her down and I met her up there and I said, "Now, Purina, now you go into the little trailer. That's going to be your quarters." And you take a shower and rest for an hour, and then you'll meet Miss Swanson." So out of the main house, the main house is long and the trailer is out here, and there's a big patio there, so out of the main

house come Miss Swanson with a big load of dirty clothes in her arms. And something in her hand. She walks, she's a real short person. She walked up to Purina and she didn't say hello, drop dead or anything. She just dropped those clothes on the floor and she said, "And this has a spot on it." And she just drops it, and turned and went in the house. And Purina started to pick it up. I said, "Don't touch it." She put them there, you didn't. And she said, "But they're on the ground." I said, "So what. They're on the ground." I said, "Go rest for an hour, get dressed, come on, you'll meet Miss Swanson." So she went on out there. So I waited around until the hour was up. Meantime, I walked into, I didn't knock the door. I walked right straight into the bedroom, and she was just like a child. She just threw clothes all over the floor. And I walked up to her and I said, "Does Miss Swanson want to wash dishes and scrub the floor and clean the bathroom?" And she said, "No." I said, "Then Miss Swanson better straighten up and fly right because nobody is going to treat anybody that I hire for them like a dog. You're going to treat her like a human being. She's come down here to help you and she's willing to help you." She looked at me and she said,

"I like you." I said, "I don't care whether you like me or not. That's just the way the ball drops." So I went right out to the guest house to the two boys. And I said, "Boys, you're going to look after your own room." Purina came down here to take care of Miss Swanson and that's what she's going to do. You go in there to eat or to visit or whatever," and I said, "When you have dirty clothes, you take them out to the laundry and Purina will take care of them. But she's not going to come out there and pick up." I said, "What's the matter with Miss Swanson anyway, acting so funny?" They said, "Miss Swanson is afraid somebody will use her as a stepping stone on the stage." I said, "Anybody that will be on the stage is out of their mind." And do you know, Purina wound up being a real good friend to her. They just got along beautifully. I've never known anybody to get along as well. And she wanted Purina to go to New York with her. But she couldn't because she had a husband in Glendale. And the boys, I don't know what happened to them. They went, I don't know.

AC: Did you ever hear them sing or play?

FB: Oh, brother! The boys could play, this boy could play.

But Miss Swanson couldn't dance. (laughter)

AC: And then later, they met her many years later.

FB: Oh yes.

AC: Oh, she used to come here next door to see Beth Grant.

FB: Oh, yes. All right. But I saw her over in the drugstore when the drugstore was over here at the first, in the May Hansen shopping center.

AC: Yes. Where Bob Keegan's is.

FB: Well, yes, they were right next door.

AC: Yes.

FB: And I kept watching her and she was wearing that big hat with a lot of makeup on, everything, and so I thought, "I'm going to say something to her, but I've just got to say the right thing." So I walked up to her and I said, "Hello, Miss Swanson." And she looked up at me, and she said, "Hello." And I said, "Do you remember me?" And she said, "How do you expect me to remember everybody?" I said, "Well, then, do you remember Purina Harrington?" "Oh," she said, "yes." I said, "Well, I'm Faye and do you remember I brought Purina down to . . ." "Oh, yes," she said, "I remember," and went wandering off.

AC: She's getting . . .

FB: Yes.

AC: But it was fun to see her again.

FB: It was fun to see her again. It really was. But I can't

name all the people that I had come to Olsen's because he was on the stage and he was traveling, Olsen and Johnson. And once in awhile they'd show up and be here for a weekend. And Moya would come and they'd always have a bunch around there.

AC: And then in one of Faye's houses that was built at the entrance of the club. It was called the hospitality house. Comedian people bought it. But Faye had Jeannette MacDonald and . . .

FB: She rented it.

AC: Yes, and her husband.

FB: And I wouldn't have known it was Jeannette MacDonald because her hair was white and she was really ill. It wasn't long before she died, but she was very gracious and kind, quiet person.

AC: Yes, Gene, what was his name?

FB: Raymond.

AC: Gene Raymond was her husband. But they were nice people.

PY: I wanted to ask you, it was called Olsen House. Did Johnson just stay there

FB: No, it belonged to the Olsens. They built it. And it was called the House of

PY: Why?

FB: And it was on, it was in copper on a sign in front.

They destroyed that sign when they sold it, when Leer took over. And then they sold it, and the people didn't want the sign and they just destroyed it. I mean, somebody could have stolen it, I don't know. But, no, it belonged to Olsen alone. And Johnson was his partner, and they would come and spend a week or weekend and they had the Boy Scouts up there once.

AC: And they had the up to people or do you remember we had all those people there?

FB: What was that?

AC: Some sort of crusade, up with people.

FB: No, I don't think it was that, didn't sound right.

PY: There was one called that.

AC: There is one.

FB: It was something like that.

AC: Yes.

FB: And they would come there and stay and of course they had everything, and they really liked the place, didn't they.

AC: (laughter) Yes.

PY: But do you know why they called it the House of

FB: Oh.

AC: Because.

FB: Because the of Broadway brought the money.

AC: Brought the money and I heard Edith Eddy Ward tell the story of when she went to New York when the Olsen and Johnson were performing in "Hell's A'Popping" or later when they did a revival or a movie, a movie about it, you know, they made a movie of "Hell's A' Popping". And when Mr. Olsen went to, took them to twenty-one or one of the great clubs there and he was going to leave a tip and he took out of his wallet and he had all the dollar bills hitched together, and he just counted down and then he clipped them off and then Stan folded them and put them under the plate. But "Hell's A'Popping" was the type of thing. They even had a little piano.

FB: I even have the little "Hell's A'Popping", there was three of them. There was three "Hell's A'Popping" pianos.

AC: Yes, and it's a little piano when they did vaudeville things. And, oh, for instance, they had potted plants that grew up in the aisles. It was real American humor.

FB: Once it ran on Broadway for years. One of the things that they did was take cakes of ice down in the audience. You know, these people were all dressed up, you know, they were there at the theatre and he would hand them

a piece of ice and they would pass it to the next guy. And here this ice would go all over the whole house, and they did one monkey something, and they turned a bunch of monkeys loose in San Francisco and just threw the whole town in a panic. The police said next time you do something like that, let us know, so we'll know what to do. (Laughter) Monkeys all over the place.

PY: You also took care of the Frank Morgan House, didn't you?

FB: Yes. The California Bank in Los Angeles got in touch with Edith Ward for somebody to inventory it and handle it while it was being sold. So she got in touch with me, and I went down and met this man at her office. And we went over there and I was the only one with a key and I wasn't supposed to let anybody in because it was in his estate. So I went through and took an inventory of the whole place and turned it over to the bank and they sent a representative of the bank down and his wife and they lived in the house part of the time while it was being shown. But I showed it to George and Pat Anderson myself. They couldn't remember who showed them the house.

AC: Oh, Pat doesn't remember a thing anyhow.

FB: She told me, she said, oh, it was you who showed it to us. I remember now.

AC: Oh, they should have bought it.

FB: They wanted that house, but they thought this motel was better. But I threw that in threw it away last Christmas when I cleaned out my storeroom. I wish I had it.

AC: Yes. I think Ruth Chase, the present owner, would . . .

FB: And I also threw away . . .

AC: love those.

FB: At the same time the inventory on the Olsen and Johnson house I remember the day I threw them away. It was Christmas day. Because Christmas day I was cleaning out my storeroom. But I have some of the original bills that they, when they had the house built, because I had to go through the garage and throw away everything that they didn't want.

AC: Yes.

FB: And I knew them pretty well. But I saved all, a bunch of these bills and a man by the name of Hernandez was the one that built that house. I don't know which, but I just remember his name Hernandez. It's probably on some of these bills.

AC: Yes. She had draperies put in the house and they were the first fiberglass drapes we'd had on the desert.

FB: Yes.

AC: Whenever anyone in the early days built a house, Pat, we always went to birddog it at night. Yes.

FB: To look it over.

AC: And see how much work they'd done and how it was going to be. Everybody commented it was kind of fun, but you know.

FB: They had green concrete floors throughout the house and they had chartreuse rugs, big chartreuse rugs on the floor. And the dining room furniture was green, and everything more or less was green. And the ceiling was open beam. The beams were black. And the ceiling part was pink. And they had a big copper hood, I think it was, over the fireplace.

AC: Over the fireplace, yes.

FB: And they had this pink because pink is the shade of copper. And you'd be surprise how nice it looked. I mean, it was new in the desert and it was very gay. But the drapery in the living room was, it looked like monk's cloth. It was heavy woven, but it was white fiberglass. And you touch it, man, you were full of glass. You didn't dare touch it. And in those days, why, of course, we didn't have air conditioning, and we only had

swamp coolers. And in the summertime, of course, they didn't run them but they wanted moisture in their house so they'd leave tubs of water in the house, you know. So we put tubs of water around for moisture and these darn drapes didn't even touch the floor and they got sort of water marks in them, you know, just like they'd been soaked up from the bottom. And the only thing we could ever figure was it was the moisture from these tubs of water in the room. I don't know, they were deadly. (laughter)

PY: It would be interesting to know who designed this house. Did you all?

AC: A gentleman who worked with Harold in the state of Washington, his name was Dick Berford, and he just designed houses for fun. And Harold told him we wanted a house that would let the sun in, and we certainly achieved that because these were big store windows. And so they've always been kind of a problem to cover up. I had bamboo drapes here and now I'll probably get some vertical or some of those levelor things. I had thought shutters would be fun, but I can't do those because it's too tall. But this house we thought would probably just need a fireplace, a heatalator fireplace,

for heating, but it isn't enough in the wintertime.

We had a very cold winter. We had snow in 1949 and 1950, do you remember? And it was cold. But a heater works just fine, but you do need some auxiliary heat.

FB: I've seen it snow three times in the desert, right?

AC: Yes.

FB: And, really, the first time up on the acreage where

is now there was two houses and one of them, well, I think a hundred and thirty-five acres was homesteaded by these people from, a man and his son, Haskin, from Pomona. And Haskin built a house. It was, well, about halfway between one side and the other. It's next door to Olsen up there. And then his sister, Lida Gilyoni, had a little house a little further back. And she came after me one day and she said, there's nobody around to do any work and I have had an operation and I'd like you to help me. And I said, oh, I'd be happy to, you know, it was a neighbor, run over there and . . .

AC: Sure.

FB: And so I went over and we just got along great. Well, I ended up working in that house and hiring a nurse, well, she had been a nurse, to come and stay there while she

went to New York with her little boy Loren. And the first time it ever snowed on the desert, I was at that house. And she had windows a lot higher than this.

AC: Yes.

FB: And a lot longer than this. And we stood by these windows and watched that snow come down, great big flakes just like this. So just as soon as we got through looking at it, I ran home real fast and got my camera and went back up there and took pictures from the inside of the house. And then I went back to the ranch and took pictures around the swimming pool and it was about that deep on the diving board. And I took pictures of that because I knew that nobody would believe me. (laughter) And the palm trees are set on a thirty-foot centers so every thirty feet there would be a round spot of snow under those trees. And I took pictures of that.

AC: That was great.

FB: It snowed since that but it didn't hold the fun that first time did.

AC: And then that spring we had flowers. We had the most wonderful array of verbena and evening primrose.

FB: The atmosphere was purple from those verbenas.

AC: Yes. Do you know the place where the Duponts built the house up there at Point Happy? That was one bank of purple. It was just beautiful. And the cars were bumper to bumper. Jessie said that she sold so many dates and got so many dollar bills she closed her shop. It sort of made her sick she had so many pictures of George Washington..

FB: (laughter)

PY: She was across the street at that point, wasn't she?

AC: Yes. I helped her, Harold and I helped her, sell one of those weekends and a couple of gentlemen came from Los Angeles, I think, and asked, "Which is the way to La Quinta?" And Jessie said, "Do you want to buy any dates?" And they said, "No." And she said, "Then we won't tell you." (laughter) But that was a beautiful spring. My, it was. The desert gold and the evening primrose and the verbena were just lush all over. So . . .

FB: And there was no construction around, you might say, to interfere with it. It was just all over.

AC: And needless to say about the store, it turned out to be just a whole lot of fun. I remember always going. The only thing I didn't like was having to do after I was alone, having to do the book work on Sundays, but

then we always planned to do something later on that day. But we worked hard and somehow it seemed easy. And then eventually, of course, I had a chance to sell it. Oh, I had several chances to sell it before that. But it was good to have been part of the community when we were growing up. Always interesting people coming at you.

FB: Always.

PY: I think I've seen Gillette. you left?

AC: Well, he was, he and Marge Gillette were down, lived at the old ranch. Carl and Dorothy used to visit with them a lot.

FB: And

AC: Yes, and they used to eat with the Hunters quite a little bit. They were very congenial people. And they had lovely roses around the old ranch house. And one day they brought Mother Gillette, the King, King he is, they called him, the King's mother, she bought something for a Christmas present and asked me to wrap it. Oh, in the early days I wrapped all the packages in town because nobody had any gift shop or paper or anything. And one of the rolls of paper that I had was nicely embossed with little Mexican figures. It was red and yellow, but

it was a plain cracked paper, very attractive. And King came in, King Gillette, and he said, "Do you know, Mrs. Carpenter, my father had that paper planned and made for the first date shop in Palm Springs." And then Shenneman was selling it. I tried, I had a couple big rolls of it and I tried to get it later on, but I think it's probably out of print now. But anyhow, they were nice neighbors and Carl Hansen, my neighbor here, did a lot of work down at the house. He was just wondering how it looked down there. We ought to go down and see it.

PY: Well, we have a good reason to go down.

AC: Yes. That's right.

PY: The tile. Can you tell the story of the tile?

AC: Oh, yes. The tiles were made by Joe Valenzuela at his kiln in La Quinta. And they were made by Mexicans over a man's thigh. He didn't come for a long time. Harold had asked Joe, who had a roofing company, and his motto was, El Rey roofs wear like iron. And he came out to measure it up and to find out how many squares, and he sat with a big cigar right off of this point and with his legs dangling over as he had measured and Harold said, "Now, Joe, when are you going to come and put the roof on?" And he said, "Some day I put it on." So some

day came. Mr. Mitchell came over, who was really, he had been a retired farm implement manufacturer and was used to getting things done like that. And he said, "Harold, has Joe been around?" And Harold said, "Well, he's delivered the tiles. They're in the yard, but he hasn't put them on yet." Mr. Mitchell said, "He delivered my tiles too." And then one day Joe came up and said, "I would like to take some of these tiles because I have to do Betty Grable's house." And Mr. Mitchell said, "What does Betty Grable have that I don't have?" And I said, "Well, you'd be surprised." (laughter) But anyhow, he did Betty Grable's house first. And then one day we came home and he had the roof, he had the tile all laid. And it has never leaked. It's been wonderful.

PY: That's a blessing.

AC: Yes, isn't it a blessing.

FB: Oh yes.

PY: Shall we first talk about Edgar Bergen?

AC: He and his wife and little Candy.

PY: I remember . . .

AC: Came to the store and I remember she was just a darling little girl and I had bar stools. Had lot of people who had, was very fashionable to have maybe a twenty-four

height bar or a thirty-inch and little Candy sat in the bar stools to twirl around. But they were very pleasant people.

FB: I remember meeting them at a real estate office in Indio when she was pregnant with Candy.

AC: Oh, is that right.

FB: I can't remember who was that real estate man at Indio. Harold knew.

AC: Yes.

PY: They talk about earlier. Can you tell again about when Patton from the Motor Vehicle School was here in Palm Desert?

FB: Well, I just remember that they lined up on the highway, it wasn't long after we came down until they moved out. They moved completely out of there, and Paul used to go up there and hike. And he'd find where the boys had chances, where they had a PX, because he found money, he found, well, they had a proving ground up there because they'd have, how they cut these out, you know, and have them pop up to shoot at and trucks, tire marks all over the mountains and way up in the canyon. And she and I have hiked in that canyon.

AC: Yes.

FB: And Paul brought home all kinds of stuff he found up there left by the boys. Now I heard that they had buried gasoline up there, which was for their own use, but nobody knows where. And I met one boy that had been with them up there. But I don't even remember his name. And I met a couple that had know about Palm Desert Village Inn, Palm Desert Inn.

AC: Oh, yes.

FB: But that's about it.

PY: Was that the boys lining up on the side of the road?

FB: Well, they were going down to Thermal and they would be in troop carriers and jeeps and . . .

AC: When we came through the first day, there were more wheeled vehicles in one concentration that I had ever seen before.

FB: Yes.

AC: And we came from Fort Lewis, you know. Olympia was very close to Fort Lewis, but this was, it must have been just the peak of the concentration.

FB: Yes, I think what they were doing was training for Africa.

AC: Yes. For the North African . . .

FB: And I think about the time we came they shipped them out to North Africa. But the landing strip was down at Thermal.

AC: Yes. That's right.

FB: At the desert town.

AC: Yes, the first time I ever flew out of the desert I went instead of to Palm Springs at six o'clock in the morning I went to Thermal. And flew over to Los Angeles.

FB: Well, now Patton did have a place that he went at Canyon Flats. Now that was up there in the mountains. What's Canyon Crest now? But I know he had to be in the area where he was. I mean, you just don't know.

PY: Were there servicemen's wives or nurses up living in Palm Desert?

FB: Yes. The house on the hill down here in Indian Wells. You know, the big house on the hill.

PY: Gurley?

AC: The Gurley house.

FB: The Gurley house. That was rented by servicemen's wives. They lived there. And Afton and Just Dundus, he had the drugstore in Indio, they moved in there after the service wives left. And they had completely demolished that house almost. It was a beautiful house inside.

They rented it. It was built by the Billiky, I don't know their first name, and the wells for that house at that time was across the street, across the road, came under the highway, for the domestic water. Bob Hope bought the property so they were cut off from the well, but now they have the public water there. And that was the only women. They were in Indio, I know, but those were the only ones I knew about out in here was down at the Billiky place. Well, there was no place to live.

PY: Not even the Palm Desert area?

FB: No.

AC: No. There were a few houses here, but there was a motel, as I've told you, or little clusters of shacks like Kelly's Cottages.

FB: Yes, down in Indian Wells.

AC: And in Cathedral City.

FB: Yes.

AC: And in Cathedral City, do you know there were five stools for hamburgers? Five, and hamburgers and cokes and the army wives who were there, and it was surprising, a lot of those people liked the desert. For instance, Tiny Henry came, stayed all through the war. Those girls stayed and waited for the men. And then they came back

and went into business here.

FB: Well, when we were at the ranch up there, not long, well it was between June, June when we came and I think January when we left, two girls came to work on the ranch. They were PeeWee and Zon, and I didn't know their last name.

AC: Nobody ever did.

FB: I don't think . . . Anyway, they wanted to work on the ranch, so we couldn't find help. So my husband said, well, we'll move the ladders, some of the men will move the ladders for you. And they worked and picked dates and climbed those ladders there. And at that time they picked dates one at a time, not whole bunch, and they wore gloves with the ends of fingers cut out in the wintertime, see, so that they could pick the dates individually. And they'd fill buckets and let them down. And they'd hang a ring of buckets around the tree. And then they'd come down and take those buckets and dump them in the boxes at the edges of the garden. Then we had three nurses. One was a registered nurse and the other two were nurses aides that had been working in a military hospital in Santa Ana or someplace around there. It might have been Long Beach. I know their homes were in Santa Ana. There was Gail Story and her husband was

with the tank corps in Italy. And Ruth something, she was the one who married, and then Millie, can't remember her name, but she was married to a serviceman. She was the nurse. Well, but they let them out to go away, to get away, they'd been working almost twenty-four hours a day, so they came to the desert and wanted to work in the dates. Now how they heard about them, I don't know. But we lived in a little house without windows and they lived in the little house next door without windows.

AC: Without windows.

FB: Yes, and we had the best time. I cooked for everybody. And we just, it was just like one big happy family and we just had a twenty-four hour party. They'd get up at daybreak and they'd go out and work in the dates and they'd come in at nine. And we'd cook up a bunch of stuff and all eat together. They stayed, those three girls stayed, about, oh, maybe four months. And then they, Virginia, no, Virginia, Millie, what was her name? Well, anyway, Millie's husband Jack came back from the service and his mother owned a lot of land in Virginia City, Nevada. And he owned the Bucket of Blood, he and a guy owned the Bucket of Blood Bar in Virginia City. And, I was trying to think of his name, anyway, they went

back there. Well, I don't know where Ruth went. And Laurel Story, Gail's husband, came back from Italy and he lost an arm because he was in this tank and they went into this city and somebody threw an hand granade at something and they picked it up and threw it back and it went right down the turret of this tank. And Laurel picked it up and started to throw it. And he said, "I knew if I threw it, it would go into a bunch of citizens, so I just hung my hand over the edge of the tank and it blew my hand off." Up to his elbow, I think. Well, anyway, he came back and they went back to the coast and I don't know where any of them. Well, Millie, I know, has remarried because Jack died and she is still in Virginia City.

PY: Were there a lot of local people other than, I mean, we talked about the fact that there were Mexican-Americans and nationals working the wetbacks, were there also people coming from some of the southern states and local people working in

FB: Not that I knew of.

AC: Well, a lot of the foremen were all, you know, Jessie tells about . . .

FB: Now she had some . . .

AC: Yes, she had some.

FB: We didn't.

AC: No. You didn't because Slim was was foreman and you worked there. But now with some of the ranches if you wanted to borrow a piece of equipment, for instance, if your help knew somebody on another ranch, well, like with Hendrix.

FB: Yes.

AC: That . . .

FB: Now they came from the south.

AC: Yes, they came from the south. And so there were people and I know Jessie said, well, they, my foreman, Coley, he was able to borrow something that they needed.

FB: Yes.

AC: And they helped each other out and most of them went to the same church.

FB: Yes. Well, you see, they were from the south and mostly.

AC: And they were relatives.

FB: Yes. All related.

AC: Kissing kin.

FB: Yes. Now there was a man working for Bert Cavanagh by the name of Luther Taylor and he lived right up here on the corner.

PY: Here in Palm Village?

FB: Yes. He lives one street over, over here on the corner.

And another man that was from, related to him lived over there on the same street just below him, but he worked with somebody around here. But mostly they were foremen and they had Mexicans that used to climb the trees.

AC: Yes.

FB: Because in those days they, it came out in the papers that it had been proven that the white man couldn't stand that sun too long, you know. But look at them lay out in it today. But that's what she was. But the dark-skinned people could stand it, which they can stand it better than a fair-skinned person because they burn and all. But the dark-skinned people do not burn.

AC: Well, Slim always talked everybody about clothes. He always looked so trim and neat and he had, and he always wore shirts and trousers. There was any of this no clothes.

FB: No, he wore . . .

AC: Because it was better to be protected.

FB: Right. w He wore boots and khaki pants and shirt and a khaki hat and he never wore short sleeves. I finally got him to wear short sleeves when he'd come in and clean up the dinner, why he'd put on short sleeves, but he said,

that sun is not for getting out there and running around naked.

AC: (laughter) And he was right.

FB: But I've seen him come in and every string on his body was wet. And his shoes would have salt circles in them, you know. And that's the way they worked in those days. And we had gnats too. Anybody told you about the gnats?

PY: Not really.

FB: Well, years ago in Indio, you know, they'd say, gee, those people in Indio are so friendly. They're always waving at you. Well, they were fanning the gnats.

AC: The Indio wave. It was very famous.

FB: I was trying to think of the man's name that worked with the Government Date Garden that we knew.

AC: Nixon?

FB: Mr. Nixon.

AC: Mr. Roy Nixon.

FB: Yes, he worked with the Government Date Garden in Indio and he ran several experiments on the ranch there with trees. I didn't pay much attention to him. I knew they were going on, but I didn't pay too much attention to them. But he would come out and I'd have him for lunch, you know, and I'd have fried chicken and tomatoes and

green beans, everything. The ranchers all around, they would just come and dump a whole big box of everything on our door. But talking about the gnats. Now we first came the gnats were so bad that you really wouldn't believe it. The air was just black with them. And everybody blamed the dates for them. Well, it isn't so because my husband worked with them, as other ranchers did, on gnat elimination. They tried everything. They sprayed with airplanes. They went around with a little jeep and sprayed. And as far as I know they found out that the gnats propagated in plowed ground. And we kept the ranch real neat and we plowed everything, you know, to keep the weeds down. Well, when they determined that the gnats were coming to lay their eggs in plowed ground and hatched out, and it lived in devil grass, Bermuda grass and tamarack trees. On the golf courses even today people complain about the gnats. Well, they're in the grass, what few there are. But when we stopped plowing the gnats went away. We had a few, but not like we had. We ground up everything. We cut those fronds and let them drop, then run them through these choppers and thirty feet wide and as long as the ranch was wide, there would be sort of a springy cushion of ground up date fronds.

And then when they'd irrigate that would all be covered with water and then it would go down. And they irrigated about every ten days, winter and summer. And having our own well, it only cost the power, the pump water which was like . . . and then they had what they called ranch rates. If you were on a ranch and you had a water heater, you had what's known as a ranch rate or commercial rate or something. But they don't have that anymore. But the dates being up in the top, I noticed, up in the top of the tree, I noticed that the Mexicans would fight the gnats down here. Well, when they got up there, they didn't have to fight them because they don't go that high. They stay right on the ground. And they grow in plowed ground and they live in tamarack and devil grass or Bermuda grass, whatever you want to call it. Then they quit experimenting. I mean, I guess they thought they had them all.

AC: Did they bring in dragon flies one year? It seemed to me they did.

FB: I remember something. But they brought in something else.

AC: Yes.

FB: I know I hated it on the mornings when they would spray, those airplanes would fly real low and just spray the stuff all over and wash. You'd wash your windows and all

get dirty. You'd clean up your yard. They'd all be a mess. You just had no encouragement at all. Every time they'd clean it up, they'd still over that thing.

PY: Didn't Virgil Pinkley live near you?

FB: Yes. He owned the ranch on the west side of Cook Road. And he fixed up the two little houses that are there. You probably have seen them. And he and Dolly, his first wife, lived there. And then they built the house up on Pinlek Lane. And she had wasn't it cancer of the bone?

AC: Yes.

FB: And died. And he owned part of the, he and a syndicate of guys I think owned the Indio News. I know he was one of the owners. I don't know who owned the rest of it.

PY: All right. Now tell me about the players.

AC: Oh, the Palm Desert Players? Well, the Palm Desert Players were started by Clay Stern. And one night in 1948 or 1949, 1948, Clay sent out a call, I guess just by word of mouth, that they were going to meet over at the Desert Magazine. Randall Henderson had said that we might have a meeting there. So we all went to the Desert Magazine and Clay had some little play books. And then there was a very eager lady. Her husband was

director of operations up at Shadow Mountain Club. And I've forgotten her name. But anyhow, she had some ideas about how it should get started. But that evening Clay handed out some books and we did a few plays. And quite happily Reginald Pole who was a very accomplished and famous actor in the Pilgrimage Play in Los Angeles was there. And he read some of the lines. And I remember I was in a little one-act play with Mr. Floyd Mitchell, the retired implement, and he was Mr. Brown and I was Mrs. Brown.

FB: (laughter)

AC: And he always called me Mrs. Brown after that. People who had never read a line were thrilled to come, you know, and to participate. Well, we met there for some time and then Clay really, they say an actor has, is a studied madness because Clay got together some money. It was donated. The first contribution was, I believe, two hundred dollars that Dorothy Seeman gave to Clay to start the players. And down next to the little spot where he had a house was an old cabinet shop. And he started the Palm Desert Players. Palm Desert Little Theatre in the old cabinet shop. I think we had about ninety-nine seats. And during the summers we'd have

hamburger, fries and potato salad and dinners before the plays. The first play that was put on in the cabinet shop was a comedy, three-act, called Accent on Youth. And Harold was in it, and Lorna Hunter who had been on the stage was very accomplished actress was in it. And also Joannand, what was her name? She married Jack Rogers.

FB: Oh yes.

AC: Colegian, Joann Colegian was the actress who took the lead, but we all had a good time and we served coffee. And that was the beginning of my fifty-five million cups of coffee I made for the Palm Desert Players. We had plays every so often with people taking part in the plays. And I was in one called, let's see, what was it? I've forgotten. Claudia, and Margo Gurkee, who was one of our fine participants, Margo was the associate editor of the Desert Magazine. And she liked to be in the plays. Sometimes we'd have them outside. I remember one we did a play out on the Frontage Road. And somebody from MGM or something had given us a lot of old Cyclorama drapes. They were green-gold in color and they put them over the mound of the, that they piled up to build the platform on. Do you remember that? And then in summertime we usually had production that was composed of a series of acts

called the Palm Desert Follies. Harold usually called them the Palm Desert Sillies.

FB: That's right. (laughter)

AC: And they were lots of fun. Even Mr. Colar, the barber, who cut every man's hair exactly the same.

FB: (laughter)

AC: Took part in it. And Clay would coach everybody in some sort of an act. Or people would sing. Ella Lou and Hal sang the together song, or no two people have ever been in love.

FB: And if I'd have danced all night.

AC: Yes. So we had lots of things. The young people took part. The Andrew sisters had a Hawaiian number that they did. And little Stanley Little and Clay put on the old familiar "Me and My Shadow." Very smart in tuxes. And one night we went to a play tryout and a very ladylike, very elegant lady came with, she had furs on that clasped, furs. (laughter) And she tried out for a part and Harold said, "It looks like she has the boys on her." The Carpenter boys were very famous cocker spaniels, one red and one kind of light red. These clasped fox furs looked exactly like they did.

FB: You said and the boys. (laughter)

AC: But we had so much fun at that theatre. And Clay. I think, as I said before, he will just soft shoe through eternity because he just loved to dance. And that he was even dancing when we got the larger theatre. That Makayla was the, Lela was president of the players by then. Lela Thompson. And Makayla subsidized the theatre, but May and Bob Hansen gave us a lot up on Willow. Yes. On Willow.

FB: In the Willows.

AC: Unit six at the end of the Willow. And then the first year we sold bricks for a dollar apiece. And got a slab laid.

FB: I'll never forget that slab.

AC: And Makayla did not like us to call it the slab, but we had breakfasts up there. It sounded so lugubrious. But we had breakfasts there, lots of fun, lots of community fun.

FB: And we brought chairs, you know, everybody brought a chair.

AC: Everybody brought a chair. And one night we were having our version of this Palm Desert Follies there, and Ted Smith was singing. (laughter) "If I Should Ever Leave You, it wouldn't be in summer." (laughter) And it was

so hot. And a bottle on the bar where some of the fellows were having a western skit fell over and it teetered on the edge of that bar. And we couldn't wait for Ted to get through with this passionate song.

Wasn't his name Ted Smith?

FB: Ted Smith.

AC: Yes. Ted Smith. But he sang in kind of a baritone, "If I should ever leave you." And this bottle full of tea (laughter) kept rolling over. Well, then they did the western skit because I remember a line from it. One of the players said, "You're going to dodge." (laughter) Lorna and her sister performed one of the little skits they had done in show business when they were traveling with the repertory theatre. And then one of the other events or one of the other highlights was Stanley Sales. He and Marian had been a vaudeville, had a vaudeville partnership, and they would do acts. Stanley was very good and so was . . .

FB: He did Baby Snooks.

AC: He did Baby Snooks.

PY: Marian . . .

AC: Marian Sales, his wife. And, but they were quite professional and we always enjoyed them. Then we'd have

music and singing and always something to eat and drink between acts. Faye and I put on a lot of dinners up there.

FB: Oh, gosh.

AC: And at least we had a wonderful turnout for our grand opening when the Great Busby Berkley did our show Irene. And then we had Faye and Esther Shack and I did the reception afterwards with all of the items, or with all of the things, people dressed up in nice clothes and, oh, we even had Mrs. Paul Whiteman there. Lots of people came because, of course, they were interested in Busby. And Clay Busby was able to insert one of Clay's eccentric dances. But it wasn't to be sneezed at.

FB: No.

AC: Then Riley and his orchestra did the playing and nobody could do a better job than they did. And we had very good singers because it was a dandy occasion.

FB: Tell her about the concerts they had in Hills.

AC: Yes. During those years in the early fifties a group of musicians from the San Francisco Symphony came here. Have we told you about those? And they bought a holding and had probably had the little homestead.

FB: Yes, they were a little five-acre home.

FB: They were a little five-acre homestead. And Merrill Remington was the principal oboist and Mafalda Hooper was one of the violinists and Orelia Remington was a violinist and then there was another violinist, I've forgotten what his name was. But they were a little coterie of them. Bruno Walter came and conducted them. And they gave concerts for us under the stars up at the Remingtons and up on the hill. And it was just wonderful. Harold brought them a case of Olympia beer one night, and they liked that very much. But such divine music. They were tops in their professions and it would be a night like this with stars.

FB: And warm.

AC: And warm and this beautiful music.

FB: And no noise interferred. No cars on the highway or anything.

AC: Just grand. But they were a wonderful addition to the community. And whenever they came Mafalda and Orelia Aurora would always come to the store and they'd tell us they were there and they were going to have a concert for us. It was just, it would just make your heart cry, it was so nice. And so wonderful. And they invited everybody, you see. But they loved the desert. And

they liked to come here and rest. And I remember when they brought Bruno Walter. He was one of the famous conductors of the San Francisco Symphony. One night I went to a Thanksgiving dinner at the club. And so Merrill Remington asked me to dance. And Aurora whispered to me and she said, "You know, he is the worst dancer in the world." He cannot keep time." (laughter) He danced, but I mean it was so funny. Here he was; you know what an oboe sounds like. It could just be divine in a solo with a violin. They always planned something nice.

FB: You here the night that they had the fireworks at the club that all went off at once?

AC: Yes. The club always put on a Fourth of July, and this time everyone had contributed or the club was going to have fireworks. And I was here at home because I was expecting Doris and Carl and C. J. to come down. And I had my two dogs outside. Corky and Bosty were out. And early in the evening, before it got to be Fourth of July explosion time, something went wrong and the whole affair went up. And I had two dogs and Silver, the collie from across the street all piled on me and the bow-wow because they don't like noises.

FB: Well, when we had the jeep, we brought the jeep down, and parked right back of where Peggy's is now. In fact, Peggy's is there.

AC: Yes.

FB: And we got the jeep back there and we bought hamburgers and cokes. We were going to sit down there because you can't see sitting up there under them.

AC: Yes.

FB: So we sat there and all of a sudden, boom, all this went off and we had just started on our hamburgers and cokes. And I thought, is that all it's going to be, you know. So finally everybody started leaving and the next day we found out that something had happened and they all went up in smoke.

AC: All went up at once. No one was hurt, thankfully. But there is a record, I think, in the picture of the fireworks going off. I think Cliff has it. I'm not certain. One night I was sitting out here and I went to the phone and I called Faye up. And I said, "I saw a UFO, and if anybody says anything I just want you to know it." A strange object, orange, going across the sky toward the Indio." So the next morning I went to Weela Thompson's. We were planning something for the little

theatre, and we always had to do it sort of sub-rosa because Lee thought we folks all did too much. "What have you got up your sleeves," he would say. But I would stop to have a cup of instant coffee with them and maybe a donut, and visit for a few minutes before I went to my store. And Lee said, "You know, I was up at the little playhouse last night to a High Twelve meeting and as we came out on the porch we saw a strange object go across the sky." And later that afternoon, the Desert Sun had a headlines and it said, Palm Springs Woman Sees UFO. So we had it in writing.

FB: Well, at the ranch one night, we were up there to swim. Of course, we had a big flood light so we didn't turn them on until we had to if the moon was out especially. I saw and you saw it flying just like this straight, three of them.

AC: Strange things.

FB: And Paul was out in the desert with the jeep and he said, "I saw out there."

AC: But this really was funny because all of those men, Walter Sterns who was a banker, somebody else who was a scientist, Lee Thompson, they all stood there and watched that orange thing way across the sky.

FB: Well, we all stood there and watched it.

AC: Yes, it was very eery. But I was just amazed and I thought (laughter) But you do see strange things on the desert. I have seen a moonbow, you know a rainbow by moonlight across San Jacinto. That was lovely.

FB: Well, I'll tell you, before there was so many lights, you could see. Now Gail Story and I, the girl that came to the ranch, and I used to drive to Palm Springs to the movie at the Plaza. And as we came back, we'd get just a sight of Cathedral City. And we'd drive the rest of the way home without lights on. No lights. Yes. And we'd get off over here and we'd turn up Highway 74. And we'd come back, we'd coast back down, you know, but we would drive to Cathedral City without a light and never meet anybody on the highway.

PY: Was it that bright?

FB: It was that bright and no cars.

AC: No cars. And you hugged against the . . .

FB: White line, you could see the white line.

AC: Yes, and the highway hugged the hills, the rim of the hills, you know.

FB: Yes.

AC: It was very pretty. And as I say, I could always remember

the ten pinpoints of brightness here in this valley as we rounded the curve. You could count them seven to ten lights.

FB: Yes.

AC: Of the people's lights.

FB: Stop light up here in Rancho Mirage. You could get there and you could look out at this cold, it was black except for the little house, the Belview House that you took pictures of. We were talking about that. And Palm Village Inn. And maybe one or two houses on that highway, but the one house on that house was all there was. And I'd look up Highway 74 and say, "What idiot would build up there?"

AC: (laughter) Oh, dear.

FB: Smart one. That was a smart one, yes. Well, you know I'm not a mercenary person and it didn't bother me, and I'm so glad they have it.

AC: Yes. Well, Harold used to say, "Well, do you remember we could have bought the ranch that made most of Thunderbird for eight thousand dollars, but whether you're rich or whether you're poor, it's nice to have money, but the sun shines on you."

FB: Yes.

AC: Whether you're rich or whether you're poor.

FB: Whether you're rich or whether you're poor.

AC: And that's what we came for because he just wanted it.

He was sitting on a cup of coffee over at Hunters one day and a jeweler from Olympia, Washington, who knew Harold quite well, came in to see him. And he said to Harold, "Well, you look just great; now that you're well, aren't you coming back to Olympia to live?" And Harold said, "I hope to God I never get that well."

(laughter) He was lots of fun.

FB: I'll say he was. (laughter) We had a lot of fun together.